

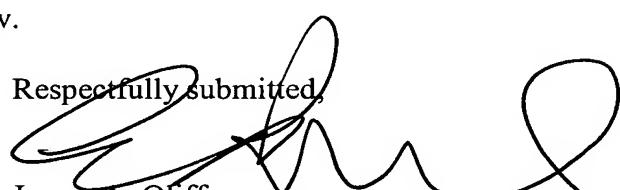
REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, a substitute specification is submitted along with a marked-up copy with markings showing all the changes relative to the immediate prior version of the specification of record. A new abstract is also submitted. Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are amended. No new matter is submitted.

Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested in view of the substitute specification and the new abstract. Further, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Eliot R. Malamud
Registration No. 51,989

JAO:ERM/aaw

Attachments:

Substitute Specification
Marked-up Copy
Abstract

Date: December 8, 2004

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